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# Longwood Presbyterian Church

## Newsletter

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Volume 27 Issue 3

March 2025

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<sup>34</sup>Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; <sup>35</sup>for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup>I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.'

Matthew 25: 34-36

The world is in turmoil.

Gaza has been all but decimated, and the people [those still alive] starve.

The Ukraine is fighting for its very existence, and we can't decide who started the war.

Beloved Pope Francis, whose voice the world needs, is still in critical condition

Our own government is in disarray, and we don't know what surprises yet await.

We have stopped feeding the hungry of the world or caring for the sick. We have closed ranks against sojourners [migrants like the Israelites fleeing Egypt]. It all seems to be going to "The Hot Place" in a handbasket.

But – "Fear Not" as the Angel says. The Kingdom doesn't falter or fail. God's grace and love are steadfast. As a friend once told me, "It's a good life if you don't weaken".

On Ash Wednesday March 5<sup>th</sup> we begin the season of Lent, when we are challenged to stop fretting & obsessing about all **those** folks – and their need to repent [as we see it!] – and look instead in the mirror at ourselves.

This is the spiritual journey to Jerusalem – the cross –



the tomb – and the Resurrection.

This is the spiritual journey of acknowledging **our** need for a Savior; our need to turn ourselves to God – for forgiveness, grace and new life through Christ.



### MUP PRESBYTERY MTG. 2/22/2025

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MUP met at Jefferson City this past week (2-22-25). Here are some of the highlights:

- Several committee reports, including Synod report from Rev. Boucher-Payne,
- Presbyterian Children's Home and Services (PCHAS)
- A narrative on how Overtures happen (by Rev. Phil and Elder Ann Bouchard)
- Worship by Rev. Kati Collins "Provocation"
- After lunch, mission project with Helen Logan and Paul Adjor (student from Ghana)
- Commissioning of CRE Julie Leverenz
- Installation of John Grimmett as Vice Moderator
- Voted on several amendments to the Book of Order (with plenty of discussion)

A very nice lunch was provided by the ladies at 1<sup>st</sup> Jeff, and the offering during worship went to a local "feeding the hungry" mission at their church.

I might add that I was joined by our friend Jack Lenz, from Covenant, on my last trip to Presbytery. We had a great time together, talked about a lot of things in our similar and not so similar pasts. But one thing we agreed on was for our churches to become closer together. One idea that Jack had was to have our churches to join forces with the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday dinners. Both churches participate in this event, so why not enjoy it together. This year is an odd year and there are only three "fifth Sundays"—March, August and November.

Let us know what you think about this idea. And feel free to join Jack and me on our next Presbytery trip, May 20, 2025.

Also, you can read more about our Presbytery on the internet: [www.mupresbytery.org](http://www.mupresbytery.org)

## LPC/COVENANT PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE

I wish I had better news for you on this subject, but we are no further along than before, as for finding a fulltime pastor. It appears that every time we increase our offering, so does everyone else, and the net result is, no new applicants.

I would share one thing with you about the changes to the Presbytery's website, CLC2. The technicians who control the design of the sight have added a "sliding bar" with regards to our salary offering. At the current time both the Covenant and Longwood sessions have approved a salary cap of \$60,000. While that doesn't seem like a lot for a college grad (plus seminary), the total package for the candidate is more like \$95,000 by the time you add in insurance, retirement, and other required extras.

So, we are patiently (?) waiting for God's answer to our needs. In the meantime, continue to pray for our churches, and if you have room, for our PNC, also.

Blessings to all, J. R.

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

This year has had a lot of cold/bad weather, so we didn't have a PW meeting in February. We plan to meet Wednesday, March 12. Hope to see you then.

Sharon

## FACEBOOK & EMAIL

In order to cut down on mailing costs, we would like to use email whenever possible. If you would like to be added to our email list and receive news and notices electronically, please send an email request to: [jrgreer@iland.net](mailto:jrgreer@iland.net).

Please watch for news and announcements.

LPC Facebook address is:

Longwood Presbyterian Church

LPC website:

[longwoodpresbyterianchurch.com](http://longwoodpresbyterianchurch.com)

Here is also Covenant's contact information:

Covenant's Facebook address is:

Marshall Covenant Presbyterian Church

Covenant's website:

[marshallcovenant.org](http://marshallcovenant.org)

## PRAYER CONCERNS

Please keep the following folks in your prayers

- Debbie Brown
- Earl Hunter (Houstonia)
- Charles (and Barb) Lawrence
- Leigh (and Bill) Jessop (Presbytery friends)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

March 2025

- **Sunday March 9<sup>th</sup> is the beginning of daylight savings time.** Please mark your calendars (Nov. 2 is the date it changes back.)
- **Longwood Session meeting, March 11**
- **Women's PW meeting at noon, March 12**
- **5<sup>th</sup> Sunday carry in lunch** with Covenant at Longwood, following joint worship.
- **Easter is Sunday April 20<sup>th</sup>.** More on Holy week later.
- The following 2 weeks (at least) **after Easter, Phil will be out of pulpits** and Rev. David Van Horn will be pulpit supply.